



## CITY OF NEW HAVEN

**JUSTIN ELICKER, MAYOR**

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August 28, 2025

Alder Tyisha Walker-Myers  
President  
New Haven Board of Alders  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

**RE: ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH UNITED WAY OF GREATER NEW HAVEN FOR THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 TO DECEMBER 31, 2026 TO PROVIDE CITYWIDE LITERACY AND MATH PROGRAMMING TO NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS UNDER THE LITERACY AND MATH TUTORING INITIATIVE FUNDED BY THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT.**

Madame President:

I am writing to respectfully request an extension of the City's contract with the United Way of Greater New Haven to continue providing literacy and math tutoring through the New Haven Tutoring Initiative (NHTI) for another year, extending from September 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

As you know, the Board of Alders recently approved an additional \$1.5 million in the FY25-26 budget to strengthen and expand this initiative. This investment reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that all New Haven Public School students have access to high-quality, individualized academic support that builds critical literacy and math skills. The continuation of the United Way partnership is essential to delivering these services as scale, coordinating tutors, and maintaining program fidelity across schools.

An extension of this contract will allow us to expand reach, maintain momentum, and continue to measure progress consistently over the next academic year and beyond. This will ensure that every student can benefit from this important investment in their educational future.

Locally, **last year only 16% of New Haven 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were at grade level in reading.** That's about 1 in 6 third graders reading at grade level. To change this downward direction will require

interventions within the schools, support for New Haven families, and engaging the City's communities.

Ideally, the elements of the program will continue to:

- Develop broad engagement of diverse partners within the city's communities;
- Recruit and hire organizational staff; paid interns, high school and college students; and volunteer tutors to reach capacity to serve between 1,000 to 1,500 students from grades 1 through 5;
- Identify and implement evidence-based curricula which could be used in the tutoring program by individuals that are not classroom teachers or those that do not have an academic background in pedagogy;
- Provide training for staff and tutors for any participating organization through in-person training, written materials and videos while investing in a train-the-trainers approach to allow each organization to train their own staff and volunteers.
- Continue tutoring after the end of the NHPS academic year throughout summer, and work in concert with YARD, NHPS summer camps and other organizations providing summer enrichment activities;
- Plan and host Family Literacy Nights that provide coaching for families around literacy strategies; practice with kids; and fun, relationship-building activities; and
- Develop and implement technologies to further literacy in the home and ensuring age-appropriate reading material is available in the home for families.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support of our students and families. We look forward to enhancing math and reading proficiencies with our students.

Thank you for your consideration,

Haley Vincent-Simpson,  
Deputy Chief of Staff